

ABSTRACT

AN INTEGRATED INFORMATION EXCHANGE SYSTEM FOR MATCHING SHIPPING DEMANDS AND CARRIER 5 AVAILABILITY

Paresh L. Nagda

Julia Z. Li

Shriniwas D. Wagle

10

An integrated exchange system for posting and reviewing shipping demand specifications and carrier availability information permits efficient shipper-to-carrier and/or carrier-to-carrier exchanges. The integrated exchange system finds matches between shipping demands and carrier availability and notifies the users
15 of a match. Furthermore, the integrated exchanges system stores the shipping demand specifications and carrier availability information in a database and prepares various reports in response to a user request by using the database.

20

In one embodiment, the integrated exchange system includes a monitoring unit that monitors the location of carrier vehicles and updates carrier availability information. In this embodiment, a carrier vehicle contains a location determining unit and a wireless modem. Additionally, the integrated exchange system can employ a standardized interface that facilitates data transfers from partner databases.